

March 12, 2013

The Honorable Steve Scalise
U.S. House of Representatives
2338 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. Scalise:

The American Farm Bureau Federation applauds your leadership in introducing a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that a carbon tax would be detrimental to the economy of the United States. We strongly support its swift consideration and adoption by Congress.

As an industry that depends on affordable energy in the production and transport of its commodities, agriculture would be especially disadvantaged by a carbon tax. One of the toughest challenges growers face is dealing with the obstacles and variability that Mother Nature often hands us. Our grassroots members, comprised of hard-working farmers and ranchers, have clearly stated in our policy that we are opposed to taxes on carbon uses or emissions. A principal reason for this is that unilateral action by the United States will have little impact on global temperatures or stop devastating weather events. Accordingly, we do not support legislation or regulations that will increase the costs for all Americans while not having a significant effect on the climate.

The presence of CO₂ in the atmosphere is ubiquitous and merely imposing energy costs on our own economy, while others are not held to the same standard, would serve little purpose. In the end, merely reducing fossil fuel emissions without producing a measurable impact on world temperatures or climate cannot be regarded as a success. And such a commitment – whether it is through a carbon tax, a mandatory cap-and-trade scheme or some other initiative – would be enormously costly.

Farm Bureau is committed to finding solutions to manage the challenges of climate variability while striving to find opportunities for economic prosperity. We obviously feel that a carbon tax does not address the challenges of our time nor does it provide opportunity for economic prosperity. We applaud you in your effort to express the sense of Congress that a carbon tax would be detrimental to the United States economy.

Sincerely,



Bob Stallman
President